

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Columbia, South Carolina

September 12, 2001

The State Board of Education held its September meeting at ten o'clock, Wednesday morning, September 12, 2001, in the Basement Conference Room of the Rutledge State Office Building. The following State Board members were in attendance: Mr. Greg Killian, Chair; Mr. Spratt White, Chair-Elect; Mr. Carlos A. Cervantes; Mrs. Queen A. Davis; Mr. Clarence Dickert; Mr. John H. Hostetler; Dr. Mary E. Jones; Mr. Marion B. Lee, Jr.; Mrs. Frances P. Lewis; Mrs. Kristin Maguire; Mr. James Mattos; Mr. James C. McRae; Mrs. Gail Moss; Mr. Chris Verenes; and Mr. Jim White. Also present were State Superintendent of Education Inez Moore Tenenbaum, Secretary and Administrative Officer of the Board, and other staff of the State Department of Education. *(Board members unable to attend were Mr. Thomas C. Ewart, Sr. and Mr. Robert E. Scarborough, who were excused for their absence.)*

INVOCATION

Mrs. Kristin Maguire delivered the invocation prior to the September 12, 2001, meeting of the State Board of Education, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF AUGUST 8, 2001

Mrs. Queen Davis moved for the approval of the minutes of the August 8, 2001, meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. James McRae and then approved by the Board.

APPROVAL OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION AGENDA

Mr. McRae moved for the approval of the agenda. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Frances Lewis and approved by the Board.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS, INCLUDING NEWS MEDIA

Chair Killian welcomed the visitors present and Mr. Rob Harper, Office of Public Information introduced the visiting news media.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There was one public speaker for this meeting, as follows:

1. Mr. Stefon Davis spoke on behalf of the Airport High School Dance Team.

STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION REPORT

REPORT ON SOUTH CAROLINA'S PACT SCORES

State Superintendent of Education Tenenbaum reported that for the second consecutive year, nearly all South Carolina students improved their PACT test performance. Gains were made in every grade level, subject and demographic area. Superintendent Tenenbaum discussed initiatives already in place designed to continue improvements in student achievement.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Clarence Dickert moved that the Consent Agenda be approved. The motion was seconded by Mr. McRae and approved by the Board. The following items were approved by the Board without further debate:

56-01 Approval of Agenda for September 11, 2001

The TRTC Committee approved this item as presented.

56-02 Approval of Minutes of August 7, 2001

The TRTC Committee approved this item as presented.

56-03 Proposed Amendments to State Board of Education Regulation 43-64, Requirements for Initial Certification at the Advanced Level (First Reading)

The TRTC Committee delayed consideration of this item until October.

56-04 Approval of Pilot Project to Accept Continuing Education Units for Speech Language Therapists in Five South Carolina Districts (First Reading)

The TRTC Committee delayed consideration of this item until October.

56-05 Approval of Pilot Project for a Principal Recertification Program with Five School Districts (First Reading)

The TRTC Committee delayed consideration of this item until October.

55-01 Approval of Agenda for September 11, 2001

The Curriculum and Instructional Materials Committee approved this item as presented.

55-02 Approval of Minutes of August 7, 2001

The Curriculum and Instructional Materials Committee approved this item as presented.

55-03 Recommendations to Fill Vacancies on the Instructional Materials Advisory Committee

The Curriculum and Instructional Materials Committee approved this item as presented.

55-05 Approval of Guidelines for Retraining Assistance Grants for School Faculty and Administration for 2001-02 School Year (First Reading)

The Curriculum and Instructional Materials Committee approved this item as presented.

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54-01 Approval of Agenda for September 11, 2001

The Finance and Legislative Committee approved this item as presented.

54-02 Approval of Minutes of August 7, 2001

The Finance and Legislative Committee approved this item as presented.

52-01 Approval of Agenda for September 11, 2001

The Policy Committee approved this item as presented.

52-03 Approval of Minutes of August 7, 2001

The Policy Committee approved this item as presented.

52-04 Approval of State Board Volunteer Awards Nominating Committee Selections for the 2001 Volunteer Awards Program

The Policy Committee approved this item as presented.

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Marion B. Lee, Chair

Teacher Recruitment, Training, and Certification Committee

Mrs. Frances Lewis, Chair

Curriculum and Instructional Materials Committee

Mr. James G. Mattos, Chair

Finance and Legislative Committee

Mrs. Queen A. Davis, Chair

Educational Policy Committee

56. Teacher Recruitment, Training, and Certification Committee—Mr. Marion B. Lee reported that the Teacher Recruitment, Training, and Certification Committee (*TRTC*) met on Tuesday, September 11, 2001.

Mr. Lee reported that items 56-01, 56-02, 56-03, 56-04, and 56-05, considered at this meeting were placed on the consent agenda.

06. Approval of Pilot Project for the South Carolina Troops-to-Teachers (SCT³) Coalition to Offer an Alternative Route to Teacher Certification for Retiring Military Personnel (First Reading)—Mr. Lee reported that the SCT³ Coalition pilot project allows for the use of training/education modules and distance learning. This pilot is only open to a limited number of military personnel who would enter the teaching profession after retirement from the military. Alternative routes to educator certification are the responsibility of the Office of Teacher Certification. The pilot project for military personnel will be implemented through a collaboration among Clemson University, South Carolina State University, The Citadel, and the University of South Carolina and will be funded by a federal grant, if accepted through a competitive bid process.

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On behalf of the Teacher Recruitment, Training, and Certification Committee, Mr. Lee moved that the State Board of Education approve the Pilot Project for the South Carolina Troops-to-Teachers (SCT³) Coalition to Offer an Alternative Route to Teacher Certification for Retiring Military Personnel with the stipulation that the questions posed by the Alternative Certification Advisory Committee are answered to the satisfaction of the Division of Teacher Quality.

Mr. Clarence Dickert stated that he would like to see the proposal include the concerns of the Alternative Certification Advisory Committee in relationship to the recommendations for certification prior to approval of the second reading.

The motion was then approved by the Board for first reading.

55. Curriculum and Instructional Materials Committee—Mrs. Frances Lewis reported that the Curriculum and Instructional Materials Committee met on Tuesday, September 11, 2001.

Mrs. Lewis reported that items 55-01, 55-02, 55-03, and 55-05 were placed on the consent agenda.

04. Proposed State Board of Education Regulation 43-262.4, End-of-Course Tests (First Reading)—Mrs. Lewis reported that the Education Improvement Act of 1998 requires the end-of-course tests for "gateway" and "benchmark" courses in the areas of English language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies.

On behalf of the Curriculum and Instructional Materials Committee, Mrs. Lewis moved that the State Board of Education approve the Proposed State Board of Education Regulation 43-262.4, End-of-Course Tests (First Reading).

Mrs. Gail Moss moved to amend Section B (3) that the tests shall be weighted ten percent instead of twenty percent in the determination of students' final grades in the gateway courses. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Maguire.

Mr. Dickert stated that he feels the percentage should remain at twenty percent to give credibility to the tests.

Mrs. Davis added that the recommendation of twenty percent came from school leaders and she feels this is reasonable.

Mrs. Lewis stated that she agreed with Mrs. Davis.

Mrs. Moss explained that twenty percent could affect scholarships and stated her concerns that one test result could steer a student in the wrong direction.

Mr. Spratt White asked why the General Assembly had returned this regulation to the Board.

Dr. Sandra Lindsay stated that the regulation was sent back with the request that the percentage be changed to ten percent, but the request was not unanimous. Dr. Lindsay added that twenty percent would place a greater importance on the tests and cause students and teachers to focus on them and also that using only ten percent would not place enough emphasis on such an expensive instrument.

Mr. John Hostetler expressed his concerns about testing too much at too high of an expense. He stated that no one is opposed to high standards and making good strides, and he feels that the results could be obtained without the expense of additional testing.

Superintendent Tenenbaum stated that due to the recent budget shortfall, legislators are now discussing if both the end-of-course tests and exit exam are necessary and if we can afford both. Superintendent Tenenbaum gave her support of the twenty percent weighting because she feels that ten percent is not high enough.

Mrs. Maguire expressed her concern that having the test weighted at twenty percent would keep teachers from giving locally developed pen and paper tests and not properly prepare students for college. She is also concerned that the tests are more for the teachers and would penalize students.

Mr. Chris Verenes stated that the Board should rely on the input from the instructional leaders that were involved in coming up with the recommendation of twenty percent.

Mr. Dickert stated that the test drives students, teachers, administrators, and parents and should have a valid level of importance.

Mr. James Mattos asked where the recommendation of twenty percent originated.

Dr. Lindsay reported that originally the districts could use up to twenty-five percent, but with uniform grading across the state, instructional leaders settled on twenty percent. They looked at national reforms for end-of-course tests and also what weight a typical end-of-course test carried and twenty percent seemed to be the right amount.

The amendment failed to pass with a vote of six to eight. The Board members voting for the amendment were Mr. Cervantes, Mr. Hostetler, Mrs. Maguire, Mr. Mattos, Mrs. Moss, and Mr. Jim White. The Board members voting in opposition of the amendment were Mrs. Davis, Mr. Dickert, Dr. Jones, Mr. Lee, Mrs. Lewis, Mr. McRae, Mr. Verenes, and Mr. Spratt White.

The original motion was approved by the Board with three opposing votes by Mrs. Maguire, Mrs. Moss, and Mr. Jim White.

Mrs. Lewis reported that the following items were submitted for information:

- **South Carolina English Language Arts Curriculum Standards 2001 Field Review Draft**
- **2000-01 EIA Program Report for Reading Recovery (Proviso 1A.15)**
- **2000-01 EIA Program Report for Junior Academy of Science (Proviso 1A.8)**

- **Requested Waiver Request of the Section of Regulation 43-264.1, Half Day Child Development Programs from Florence School District 1, Sumter School District 17, and Lexington School District 5 that stipulates that a minimum of 10-percent of the total budget shall be utilized in supplies/materials and equipment for instructional purposes (Section VI B.1. and 1)**

54. Finance and Legislative Committee—Mr. James Mattos reported that the Finance and Legislative Committee met on Tuesday, September 11, 2001.

Mr. Mattos reported that items 54-01 and 54-02 were placed on the consent agenda.

Mr. Mattos reported that the following item was submitted for information:

- **State Board of Education Financial Statements**

52. Educational Policy Committee—Chair-Elect Spratt White reported that the Educational Policy Committee met on Tuesday, September 11, 2001.

Chair-Elect White reported that items 52-01, 52-03, and 52-04 were placed on the consent agenda.

REPORT OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION TEACHER LICENSURE ISSUES

Chair-Elect White gave a report of the actions taken by the State Board of Education concerning teacher certification issues in the State of South Carolina on Tuesday, September 11, 2001.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

Mrs. Davis moved for the approval of the minutes of the September 11, 2001, meeting. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Maguire and approved by the Board.

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ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the Board adjourned at 11:07 a.m.

Chair

Secretary

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